

REMARKS

Applicant disagrees with the restriction requirement because all embodiments relate to the same invention in several embodiments. Ten of the twenty-two pending claims are generic to all embodiments so that each alleged species shares at least two-thirds of its claims with all other species (because none of the species encompasses more than 15 claims). For example, all claims relating to Species III also relate to Species IV so that Species III merges into Species IV. Likewise, all claims relating to Species V also relate to Species I and Species II so that Species V is not a separate species and is within the overlap of Species I and Species II, which differ only by one claim.

Because the embodiments shown in the figures differ mostly in the location of elements common to all embodiments, a keyword search for the elements of one of the embodiments would necessarily also divulge prior art pertinent to the other embodiments, and only a detailed inspection of the prior-art figures and specifications would allow a determination as to which embodiment was affected. Therefore, no additional search burden would result if the search was conducted for all embodiments together.

Accordingly, Applicant requests that the Restriction Requirement be withdrawn.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerlinde Nattler", is written over a horizontal line.

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